

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11154 071803Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 ICA-11

IO-13 /103 W

-----099259 071817Z /40

P 071751Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7109

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PO, ECIN

SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JUNE 6, 1978: REPLY

TO PORTUGUESE ACCESSION REQUEST

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 9911 (B) BRUSSELS 10812(NOTAL)

1. THE PROSPECT OF EVENTUAL PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP IN
THE EC MOVED YET ANOTHER LEGAL STEP CLOSER WHEN THE JUNE 6
EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE EC COMMISSION'S
OPINION ON THE PORTUGUESE APPLICATION FOR ACCESSION AND
PRONOUNCED ITSELF IN FAVOR OF OPENING NEGOTIATIONS
WITH LISBON.

2. ACCORDING TO PERMREP SOURCES, DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL
CENTERED ON THE TIMING OF OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS; IT WAS
EVENTUALLY AGREED THAT THE EC SHOULD OFFER TO BEGIN TALKS
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"AS SOON AS PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE" AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK,
I.E., SOME TIME IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. OUR SOURCES SAY
THAT THIS FORMULATION REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN
THOSE MEMBER STATES WHO PREFERRED POSTPONING NEGOTIATIONS
AS LONG AS POSSIBLE (FRANCE AND ITALY) AND THE OTHER
MEMBER STATES, WHO BY AND LARGE FAVORED OPENING TALKS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. AS A CONCESSION TO THE FRENCH AND

ITALIANS, THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN (COUNCIL PRESIDENT) SHOULD EMPHASIZE AT HIS POST-MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE THAT, ALTHOUGH THE COUNCIL'S ACTION IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, THERE WILL BE HARD WORK AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. OUR SOURCES ADD THAT THE COMMISSION AND COREPER ARE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING ACTUAL DATES FOR THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS.

HINTON

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Message Attributes

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